

Thinking of using a private pest control company to control mosquitoes



Consider these suggestions

HCPH Mosquito Control does not regulate local pest control companies; however, we provide suggestions and/or resources for neighborhood associations and others who may be interested in hiring a pest control contractor. The following suggestions are provided to assist in making an informed decision when considering a private pest control company to control mosquitoes in your neighborhood.

1. Have an Association member or other responsible person act as Mosquito Control Coordinator for the spray services.
2. If possible, have the contract written so the pest control company will only spray when mosquitoes are a problem. (Coordinator should be the person to contact the company.) The pest control companies will probably want to spray once a week. One might possibly contract for a certain number of sprays per season and have the company spray 2 or 3 times a week if necessary, but not spray if no mosquitoes are present.
3. Require the pest control company to give the Association a copy of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) label and the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all products used.
4. Additional information the contractor should provide is listed below.

Treatment Information:

- Map defining the streets (area) to be sprayed.
- The time of application. Contractors should not spray before dusk. No daytime spraying.
- Cost per mile for spraying.
- Provide amounts/lbs. per acre of the insecticide.

Insurance/License:

- Provide a copy of insurance as required by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Structural Pest Control Service (SPCS).
- Provide a copy of the company's license

Quality Control:

- Does the contractor make any claims of effectiveness of spraying?
- If so, what is the standard used to determine effectiveness.

5. Have the contractor provide a monthly report to the Coordinator that includes:

- Type of insecticide used,
 - Amount of insecticide used,
 - Rate of application,
 - Truck speed while spraying
 - Miles treated,
 - Date(s) treated,
 - Time(s) of treatment,
 - Driver's name.
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Whether your final decision is to hire or not to hire a private pest control company to control mosquitoes in your neighborhood, remember that you and your neighbors play a key role in reducing mosquitoes populations around your home.

- Don't feed the storm drains. Sweep up lawn clippings, leaves, and tree limbs from sidewalks and driveways.
- Remove/empty containers that can hold water such as flowerpots, buckets, tires, toys, and plastic swimming pools.
- Bird baths and pet water bowls should be changed at least twice a week.
- Keep rain gutters clean and draining; and repair any outdoor household leaks.
- When watering the lawn, be aware of any excess water that may accumulate. Fill in low areas around the yard.

For more information contact:

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